

Dewey Loeffel Landfill

New York

EPA ID#: NYD000512335

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 29

Rensselaer

Nassau

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 3/4/2010

Site Description

The Dewey Loeffel Landfill (DLL) site is composed of an inactive hazardous waste disposal area and the releases from it into nearby surface water bodies, including the former Mead Road Pond, Tributary T11A, Valatie Kill, and Nassau Lake, and an underlying groundwater aquifer. The DLL facility is located in the Town of Nassau in southern Rensselaer County, New York and is located within a low-lying, 19.6-acre easement between two wooded hills.

From 1952 to 1968, Loeffel Waste Oil Removal and Service Company ("Loeffel") operated the DLL property as a disposal facility for waste materials generated by several industries. The General Electric Company (GE) reported that approximately 37,530 tons of waste materials from GE manufacturing facilities were deposited at the facility. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) reported that at least 8,790 tons of waste materials were deposited at the facility from other industrial sources, including Bendix Corporation and Schenectady Chemicals, Inc. Waste materials, including solvents, waste oils, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), scrap materials, sludges, and solids, were dumped into a lagoon area, oil pit, and drum burial area. Some drum contents were pumped onto the ground surface, and waste materials were also burned during facility operations. In 1968, after several years of citizen complaints, the State of New York ordered Loeffel to stop discharges from the disposal facility and perform remedial activities. By 1974, Loeffel had covered and graded the disposal areas with soil and constructed drainage channels to control runoff. From 1974 to 1980, Loeffel continued to use four 30,000-gallon above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) at the facility for waste oil transfer. In 1980, GE entered into an agreement with NYSDEC to perform additional investigation and remediation at the facility. From 1982 to 1984, GE removed approximately 500 surface drums and the 30,000-gallon ASTs from the property, and installed a NYSDEC-approved slurry wall, clay cap, and leachate collection system. Since 1985, NYSDEC has overseen operation, maintenance, and monitoring activities at the DLL facility. NYSDEC designated three operable units (OUs) at the facility: OU1, the encapsulated disposal area; OU2, ground water contamination associated with the facility; and OU3, surface water releases downgradient of the facility. In January 2001, NYSDEC issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for OU2, and in January 2002, NYSDEC issued a ROD for OU3. GE has conducted remedial investigations and remedial actions associated with OU2 and OU3 since 1992. From 2001 to 2004, GE removed approximately 15,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil and sediments from the drainageway between the facility and Nassau Lake, including the area immediately adjacent to the disposal facility, Mead Road Pond, Tributary T11A, and the Valatie Kill.

Threat and Contaminants

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Dewey Loeffel Landfill site property was used as a disposal facility for more than 46,000 tons of industrial hazardous wastes, including solvents, waste oils, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), scrap materials, sludges, and solids. Some hazardous substances, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and PCBs, have migrated from the facility to underlying aquifers and downstream surface water bodies, resulting in contamination of ground water, surface water, sediments, and several species of fish. There is currently a ban on fish consumption in Nassau Lake and the impacted tributaries.

Cleanup Approach

On March 4, 2010, EPA proposed the Dewey Loeffel Landfill site for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL) following the completion of a Hazardous Ranking System analysis. EPA is currently performing its evaluation of public comment received regarding the proposal for NPL listing. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation continues to monitor and maintain all site activities currently in place.

Cleanup Progress

The Dewey Loeffel Landfill site is under evaluation for inclusion to the National Priorities List (NPL) of superfund sites. EPA is currently reviewing site data and formulating a strategy for further site investigation and potential further actions in the event that the site is listed on the NPL. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation continues to monitor and maintain all site activities currently in place.

Site Repositories

EPA Region 2 Superfund Records Center, 290 Broadway - 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866.